



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 11, 2014

Dear Alternative School Administrators, Charter School Administrators and Superintendents,

We are preparing to release the Alternative School Applications for the Summer 2014 session and the 2014-15 Regular Session. To further assist you, not only will the applications be posted on our website, but an instructional page will also be provided.

In addition, we thought it was important to review several of the requirements and reiterate the Board of Education Rules related to alternative schools. Please review the following items carefully to insure your alternative school(s) is meeting all of the requirements.

At-Risk Student Qualification List

An at-risk youth is any secondary student, grades 7-12, who meets any three of the following criteria in Column A, or any one criteria in Column B. Please review the following chart to make sure your students meet the criteria. Students who do not meet the criteria should not be included in the Alternative School ISEE reporting for the summer session or regular school year.

Column A	Column B
Has repeated at least one grade.	Has substance abuse behavior.
Has absenteeism that is greater than 10% during the preceding semester.	Is pregnant or a parent.
Has an overall grade point average that is less than 1.4 prior to enrolling in an alternative secondary program.	Is an emancipated youth.
Has failed one or more academic subjects.	Is a previous dropout.
Is two or more semester credits per year behind the rate required to graduate.	Has serious personal, emotional, or medical problems.
Is a limited English proficient student who has not been in a program more than 3 years.	Is a court or agency referral.
	Upon recommendation of the school district as determined by locally developed criteria for disruptive student behavior.

Student Fees

The State Department of Education strongly discourages charging fees due to legal and discrimination issues. The purpose of providing alternative classes is to assist those students who need the extra support to continue their education and those students most in need of assistance may not attend if they cannot afford the fee.

Accountability

When completing the application it is important to remember that what is stated in the application is part of the school accountability. Once approved you are expected to follow the application. If there are any changes made to the Alternative school program, please contact Lori Howard or me.

All data for alternative schools is reported through ISEE. Students attending a traditional high school full-time and an alternative school part-time for credit recovery should not be reported through ISEE.

The information in the application is aligned to the ISEE reporting including grade alignments, staff assignments, building locations/numbers and number of school hours. For example, if the application is for grades 11-12 then only attendance for 11th and 12th grade may be reported for that school. Additionally, the school is expected to provide the instruction, assessments, and requirements associated with that grade configuration. If attendance is reported for a fifth grade student an error will occur. This information is also used to determine funding eligibility. For the Regular Alternative School Session, if more than 25 hours of attendance a week for a student is reported, that additional amount will be adjusted and you will not receive funding beyond the 25 hours. For the Summer Alternative Schools the hours are aggregated to 225 hours for the program, not per student

It is imperative to complete and return your applications by the due date(s). Applications not submitted and approved before instruction begins for the summer or school year will not be guaranteed funding.

Alternative School Pre-Conference Workshop

As a reminder, we will be holding an Alternative School Pre-Conference Workshop on April 16, 2014 at the Idaho Prevention Conference in Sun Valley. The entire Prevention Conference will take place on April 17-19, 2014. More information about the conference is available on the Department's web page.

If you have any questions about this letter or the application, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Clement Taylor".

Michelle Clement Taylor
School Choice Coordinator
mtaylor@sde.idaho.gov
208-332-6963